

OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

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9 MAY 70 00 40

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Origin

ACTION: AmEmbassy PHNOM PENH

Info:

INFO: AmEmbassy SAIGON
VIENTIANE

US DEL FRANCE
US Mission GENEVA
CINCPAC
COMUSMACV

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY *Amblay* DATE *10/4/80*

STATE

RDS or XDS EXT. DATE

TS AUTH. REASON(S)

ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐

DECLASSIFIED ☒ RELEASABLE ☒

RELEASE DENIED ☐

FA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUBJECT: ICRC and Cambodia

1. American Red Cross has furnished us following summary report on Cambodia dated April 27, 1970 from International Committee of the R Cross (Geneva).

2. BEGIN TEXT: I) General Situation

ICRC Delegates Andre Durand and Michel Testuz who are now both in Phnom Penh confirm that fighting in Eastern border provinces mainly Kompong Cham, Svay Rieng, and Takeo ^{has} ~~have~~ caused casualties among armed forces and civilian population. Villagers from battered areas are seeking asylum in other provinces. Although press reports do not seem entirely reliable large numbers of Vietnamese residents considered as suspects have been herded in

Drafted by: U/PW: FASieverts 5/7/70

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provisional internment camps where medical attention, food supplies, not to speak of protection of life and physical integrity need improvement.

2) Conventions

Phnom

~~Phnom~~ Penh Foreign Affairs Ministry has cabled ICRC April 2 that Durand will enjoy all facilities in his humanitarian task. They have added April 15 that Cambodia will respect Geneva Conventions. Referring to tragic events of Prasaut April 10, we have reminded them of their obligations toward innocent civilians, requested that armed forces receive adequate instructions and asked permission for ICRC delegates to visit internment camps.

Parallel action has been taken with Prince Norodom Sihanouk Ex Chief of State now head of Cambodian National Liberation Front currently in Peking.

3. Relief

On request Cambodian Red Cross we sent April 14 200 units dried blood plasma. Preparations have also been made meanwhile here and in Phnom Penh to meet needs which might not be covered by Cambodian Red Cross and authorities. According advance information received early April from Cambodian Red Cross this first stage of emergency relief action would include antibiotics antimalaria antidiarrhoea, surgical kits, dressing

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COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE

SUMMARY REPORT

RE : CAMBODIA

1) GENERAL SITUATION

ICRC DELEGATES ANDRE DURAND AND MICHEL TESTUZ WHO ARE NOW BOTH IN PHNOMPENH CONFIRM THAT FIGHTING IN EASTERN BORDER PROVINCES MAINLY KOMPONG CHAM, SVAY RIENG, AND TAKEO HAVE CAUSED CASUALTIES AMONG ARMED FORCES AND CIVILIAN POPULATION. VILLAGERS FROM BATTERED AREAS ARE SEEKING ASYLUM IN OTHER PROVINCES. ALTHOUGH PRESS REPORTS DO NOT SEEM ENTIRELY RELIABLE LARGE NUMBERS OF VIETNAMESE RESIDENTS CONSIDERED AS SUSPECTS HAVE BEEN HERDED IN PROVISIONAL INTERNMENT CAMPS WHERE MEDICAL ATTENTION, FOOD SUPPLIES, NOT TO SPEAK OF PROTECTION OF LIFE AND PHYSICAL INTEGRITY NEED IMPROVEMENT.

2) CONVENTIONS

PHNOMPENH FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTRY HAS CABLED ICRC APRIL 2 THAT DURAND WILL ENJOY ALL FACILITIES IN HIS HUMANITARIAN TASK. THEY HAVE ADDED APRIL 15 THAT CAMBODIA WILL RESPECT GENEVA CONVENTIONS. REFERRING TO TRAGIC EVENTS OF PRASAUT APRIL 10, WE HAVE REMINDED THEM^{of} THEIR OBLIGATIONS TOWARDS INNOCENT CIVILIANS, REQUESTED THAT ARMED FORCES RECEIVE ADEQUATE INSTRUCTIONS AND ASKED PERMISSION FOR ICRC DELEGATES TO VISIT INTERNMENT CAMPS.

PARALLEL ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN WITH PRINCE NORODOM SIHANOUK EX CHIEF OF STATE NOW HEAD OF CAMBODIAN

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3) RELIEF

ON REQUEST CAMBODIAN REDCROSS WE SENT APRIL 14 200 UNITS DRIED BLOOD PLASMA. PREPARATIONS HAVE ALSO BEEN MADE MEANWHILE HERE AND IN PHNOMPENH TO MEET NEEDS WHICH MIGHT NOT BE COVERED BY CAMBODIAN REDCROSS AND AUTHORITIES. ACCORDING ADVANCE INFORMATION RECEIVED EARLY APRIL FROM CAMBODIAN REDCROSS THIS FIRST STAGE OF EMERGENCY RELIEF ACTION WOULD INCLUDE ANTIBIOTICS ANTIMALARIA ANTIDIARRHOEA, SURGICAL KITS, DRESSING MATERIAL, ANAESTHETICS, ISOTONICS, SULFAMIDES, DISINFECTANTS AND 12 VEHICLES. FOLLOWING RECENT EVENTS VACCINES, POSSIBLY FOOD SUPPLIES MIGHT ALSO HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED.

HOWEVER NO REPEAT NO RELIEF CONSIGNMENT SHOULD BE SENT BEFORE ICRC RECEIVES FORMAL REQUEST AND/OR APPROVAL FROM LOCAL AUTHORITIES. ICRC DELEGATES ARE ALSO IN TOUCH WITH WHO REPRESENTATIVE AND HEALTH MINISTRY.

4) PERSONNEL

CAMBODIAN AGREEMENT IS ALSO AWAITED FOR ICRC REINFORCEMENTS WHO ARE READY LEAVE GENEVA. THE SAME NUMBERS FOR MEDICO RELIEF TEAMS WHICH NATIONAL SOCIETIES MIGHT CONTEMPLATE SENDING AS WELL. IN THIS CONNEXION WE HAVE REFERRED TO CAMBODIAN REDCROSS THE APRIL 18 SOUTHVIETNAMESE REQUEST FOR MEETING OF BOTH SOCIETIES AND OFFER OF ASSISTANCE CONCERNING VIETNAMESE MINORITY AND THEIR POSSIBLE REPATRIATION.

April 27, 1970
JPM/Be

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